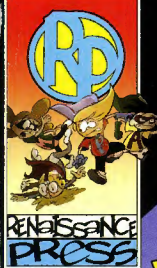


PLUS: APATHY KAT



AMELIA RULES!

"Hangin' Out!"



FREE
COMIC
BOOK
- DAY -

AMELIA RULES!



**Written and
Illustrated by
Jimmy Gownley**

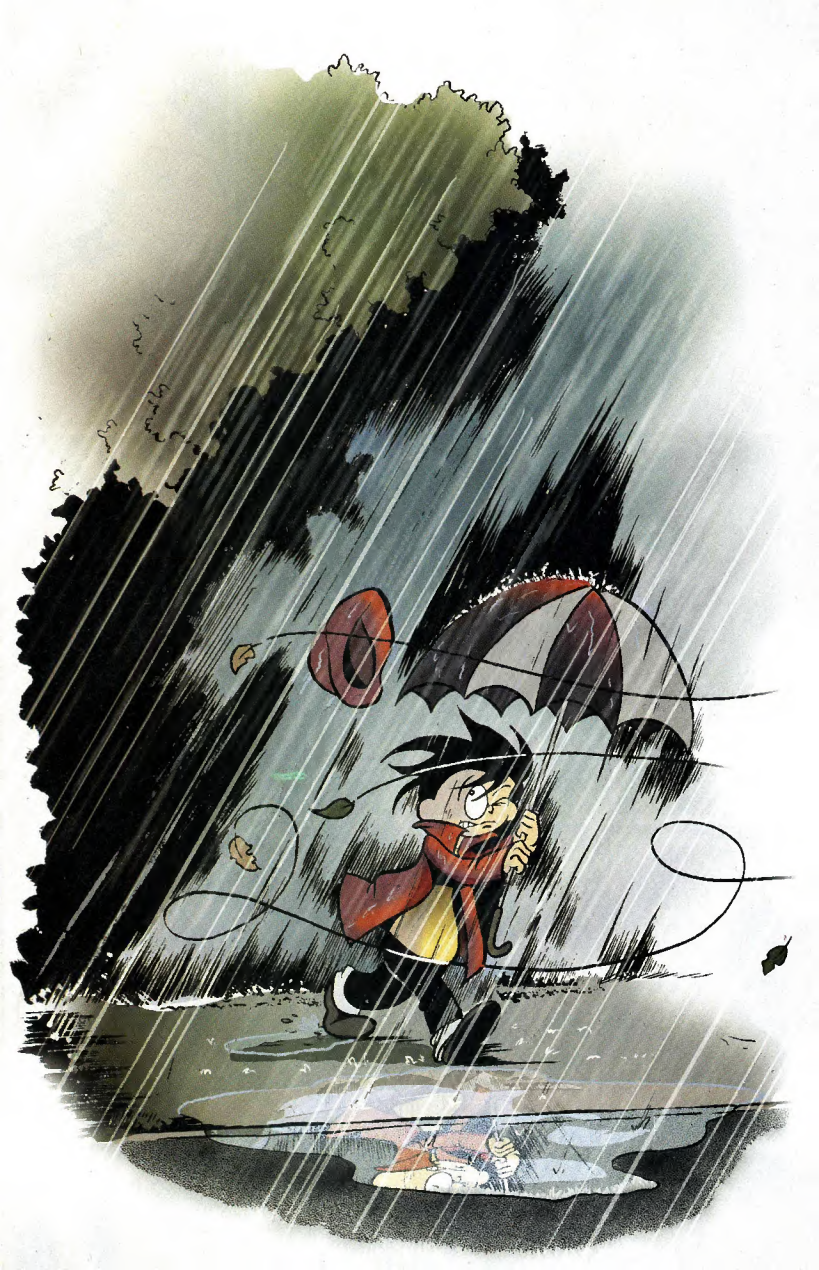
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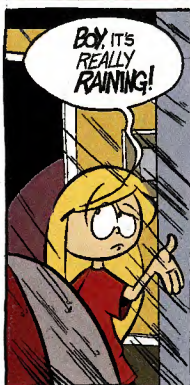
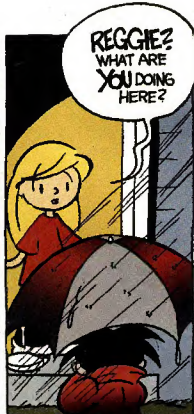
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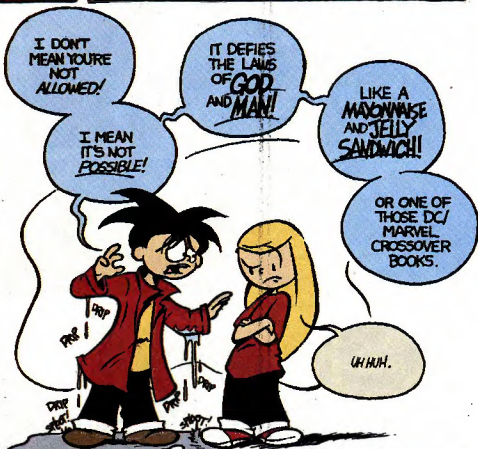


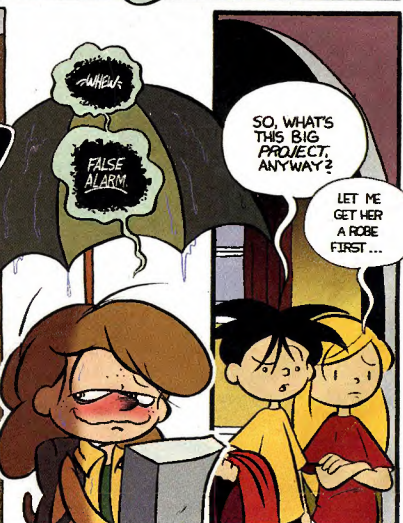
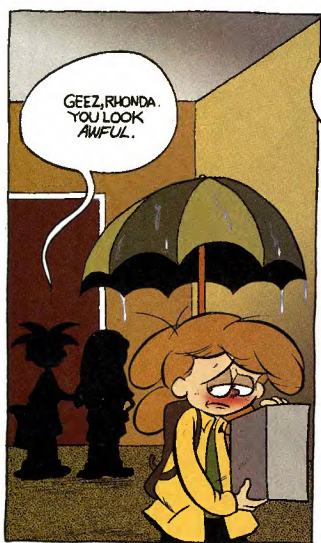
AMELIA RULES!

"Hangin' Out!"

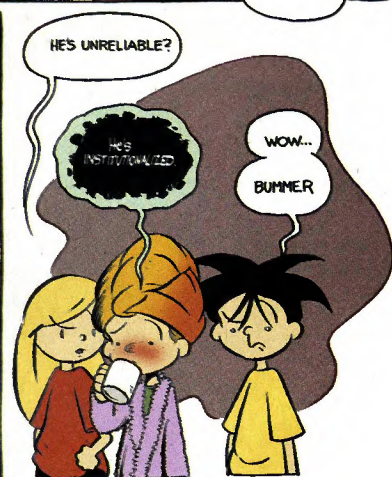
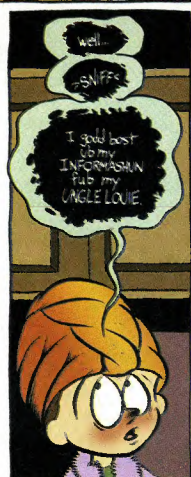
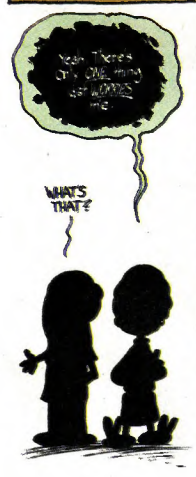
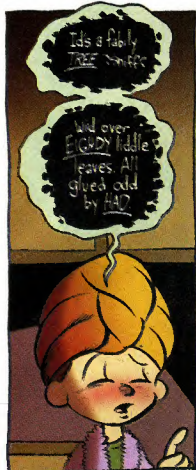
by
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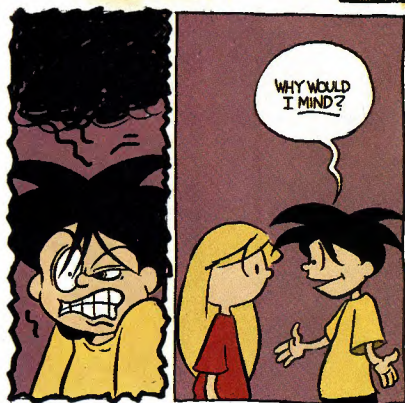
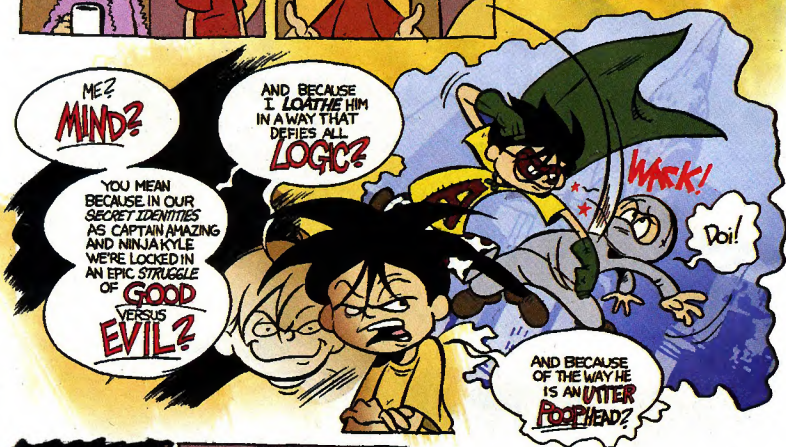
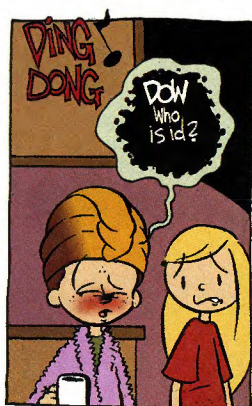






"SHE'S DRIPPIER THAN YOU ARE."



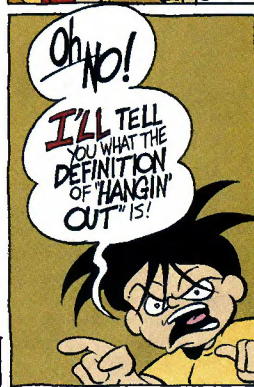
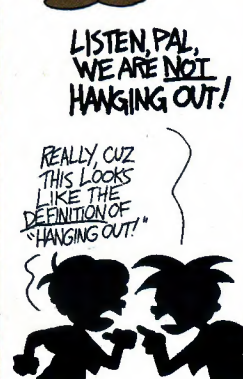
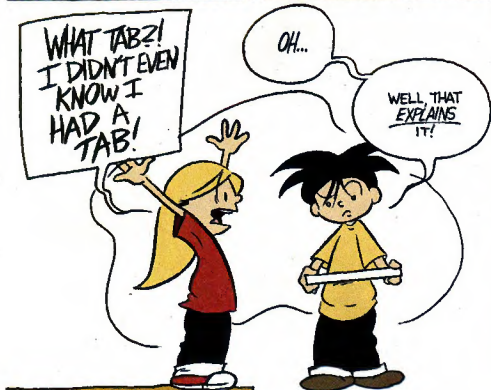
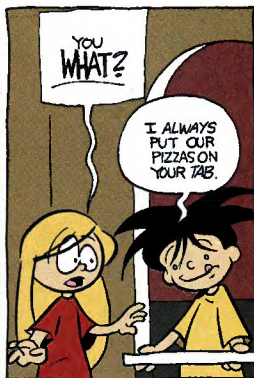


UH HUH...

HEY, MAYBE YOU
SHOULD TALK TO
RHONDA'S UNCLE...

MAYBE HE
NEEDS A
ROOMMATE.





Hangin' Out

Hangtacious Outacus -More commonly known as "Hanging Out"- is a 20th Century American invention, in the vein of "Bummin' Around," or "Chillin'." Although Hanging Out at first appears rather simple, in fact, its rules are myriad.



(fig.1)

Hanging out cannot be done alone. That is called "moping" or "Being a Pariah," and neither one is particularly attractive. (fig. 1)

Any group containing two to five people may engage in Hanging Out, so long as doing nothing is the primary activity. For example, "Hanging Out and talking" is acceptable, while "Hanging Out and building shelters for Habitat for Humanity" is not. Snacks are not required, but are highly recommended. (fig. 2)



(fig.2)

There are strict restrictions on how many people may Hang Out, and how often the hanging may occur. For example, More than five people is now a Party, and while it may seem like you can Hang out at a Party, you can't because the music is too loud, and let's face it, there's no way you like more than five people anyway. (fig. 3)



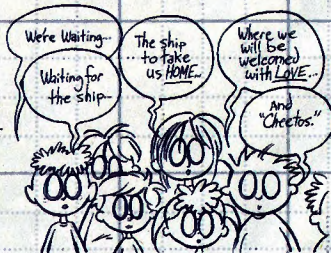
(fig.3)



(fig.4)

Here is where the slippery slope gets even slipperier.

More than five people more than once a month is no longer a party, but a club (fig. 4). This is fine, but you may be expected to pay dues, or pretend to be interested in other people's boats, and/or record collections. More than once a WEEK, and it becomes a cult. It is definitely advisable NOT to join a cult, but if you feel you must, remember that it is better to be the leader than the guy who collects the fingers. (fig. 5)



(fig.5)



OKAY, YOU GUYS TRY NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER.

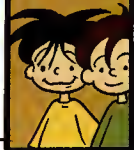
WE'LL BE DONE SOON...

AND THEN, WE CAN ALL HANG OUT. OKAY?



OKAY!

GREAT!



SINCE YOU GUYS ALL GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER, DON'T YOU HAVE A PROJECT DUE, TOO?

YEAH, PROBABLY...

BUT I CAN JUST THROW SOMETHING ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING TOGETHER AT BREAKFAST.

NO MATTER WHAT CLASS IT IS, GLOBAL WARMING IS A GUARANTEED "C."

IT'S VERY "HOT" RIGHT NOW.

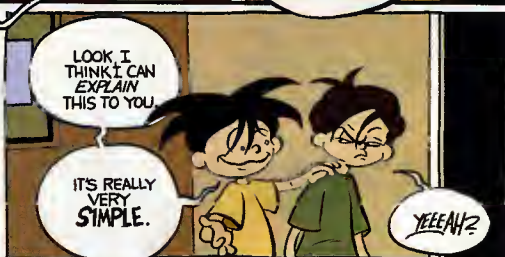
HEH HEH GET IT?

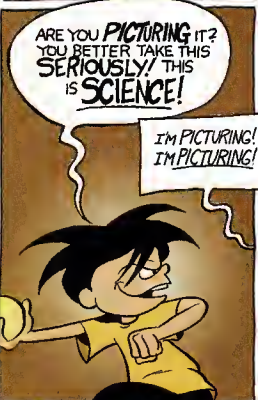
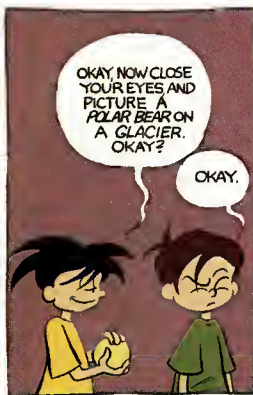
BOY, HOW ANYONE CAN BELIEVE IN THAT GARBAGE IS BEYOND ME!





DID YOU EVER HEAR THESE PEOPLE TALK?





DO YOU THINK
IT'S SMART
TO LEAVE THOSE
TWO IN THERE?



WELL, HOW
'BOUT ONE
OF THESE?

POW!

THAT DOES IT!
WAIT HERE TIL
I GET MY
COSTUME!

WHAT, YOU DON'T
WEAR IT UNDER
THOSE DORKY
CLOTHES?



NO, BUT I KEEP
A SPARE HIDDEN
IN AMELIA'S
JAMMIE DRAWER!

WHAT?!

Oops!
(I've said
Too Much!)



LAST one
now...

Easy...

EEEEASY

DERE.

YOU
WHAT?!

ACK!

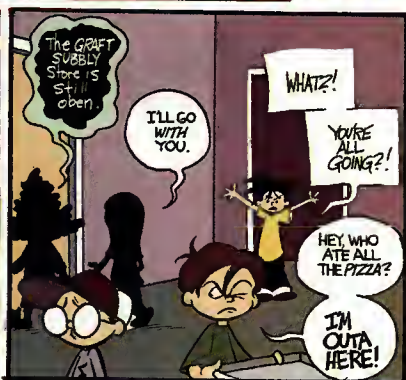
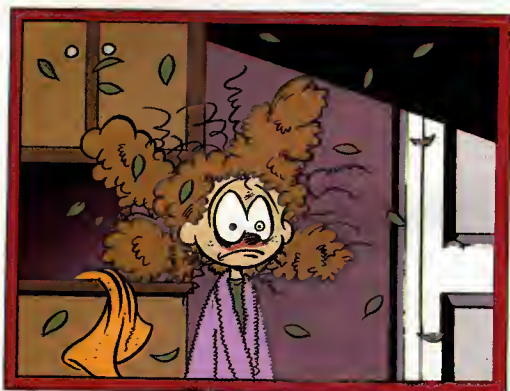


**All
DUD!**



ulk





WE NEVER
GOT TO
HANG
OUT!



APATHY KAT PREVIEW

Some of you who have been following comics for a while might remember a little book called *Apathy Kat*. Published by Entity Comics in the mid '90s, *Apathy Kat* was totally at odds with prevailing trends both inside and outside the comics biz. The creation of cartoonist Harold Buchholz, *Apathy Kat* is a sweet, funny, goofy and slightly surreal comic book that wears its very big heart proudly on its sleeve.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to meet Harold, and we've since become great friends. If you like the new *Amelia Rules!* bookshelf editions, then you have Harold to thank, as he is the one that oversaw their production.

I liked *Apathy Kat* when it was coming out in black and white pamphlet form, but when I saw Harold's spiffy new fuel-injected full color version, I fell in love.

My daughter Anna did, too.

She told me she **LIKES** "Meel-yuh," but she **LOVES** "Ap-uh-fee Kat."

Harold is currently back at the drawing board working on all-new *Apathy Kat* stories, so hopefully we'll be seeing the fruits of those labors soon. It's been too long a wait.

And if you just **CAN'T** wait, check out Acredale.com for more adventures of Ap and the gang online.

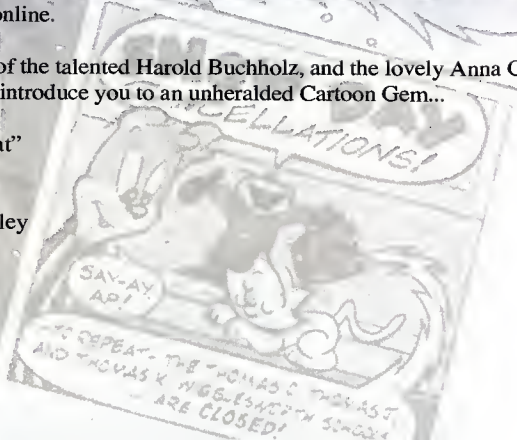
So, on behalf of the talented Harold Buchholz, and the lovely Anna Gownley, I am pleased to introduce you to an unheralded Cartoon Gem...

"Ap-uh-fee Kat"

-Jimmy Gownley

2007

SON?
THE
ONLY ONE
LISTING





Apathy Kat

AP'S DIARY

In the town of Acredale's a home for strays that's toasty warm. It boards rejected kits and pups up in its second-story dorm.

The baseball season months away, there are no fields where they can play. Perhaps a yarn spun fresh today will bring them spring upon a sleigh.

MISS GOODPENNY'S
HOUSE FOR STRAYS
SQUAD • SQUAD
CATH • HOPS • LEAD



HEY AP!
SAMSON!

JAVA! WHAT IN
THE NAME OF ALL
THAT IS COOL ARE
YOU DOING BENDING
AN EAR TO THAT
SQUARE STATION?

GET HEH,
SAMSON!
IT'S THE
ONLY ONE
LISTING...

SNOW DAY
CANCELLATIONS!

SAY-AY,
AP!

-TO REPEAT- THE THOMAS C, THOMAS J,
AND THOMAS K. WIGGLESWORTH SCHOOLS
ARE CLOSED!

SO KIDS, ENJOY YOUR DAY OFF—
WISH I HAD A DAY OFF, HUH, EMILY?
(HEE HEE—TODD, YOU SAID IT!)

DO YA SEE ME
DANCIN'?
I'M DANCIN'!

HEE HEE
HEE HEE!

—HOLD ON—A PROFESSOR STRAIGHTPLACE
OF THOMAS "K." WIGGLESWORTH SCHOOL
IS ON THE LINE SAYING THAT HIS CLASS
WILL BE IN SESSION—

NO!
SNOW
OR NO!

AGH— CAN HE DO
THAT, AP? WHAT
KIND OF FIEND IS
STRAIGHTPLACE?

HIGHER LEARNING
NOW & EVER
RAISE YOUR BANNER
TO THE SKY!

WELL, WELL, WELL. IF IT ISN'T PROOFY, THE THIRD-GRADE
GENIUS. IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE SUCH A HIGH-MINDED
LAD AS YOURSELF THIS MORNING!
DO YOU WANT INTO THE
LIBRARY?

YOU READ
MY MIND, PROFESSOR
STRAIGHTPLACE. I'M
GLAD SOMEONE HAS
THE SENSE TO PUT
EDUCATION OVER
PRECIPITATION
TODAY!

HAHAHA

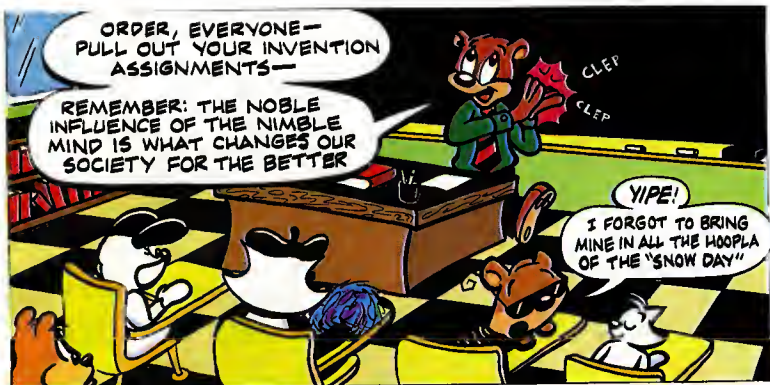
HAHAHAHA

WELL, HAVING BEEN CHARGED WITH
ACREDALE'S WORST HIGH SCHOOL
SLACKERS, I FEEL I HAVE AN
OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY.

YOU'RE THEIR
LAST CHANCE FOR
REDEMPTION, SIR.

DON'T WORRY. MY INTELLECT
WILL INTIMIDATE THEM INTO IT
ONCE I EXPOSE THE UNCARING
EMPTY-HEADEDNESS OF THEIR
NEW LEADER—

"APATHY KAT?"
THEN I DO HOPE
YOU MAKE QUICK
WORK OF HIM!



-AND **WHAT** DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

NOTHING

WELL, WELL, WELL.
EVERYONE... EVERYONE...

CLEP
CLEP

?

MR. APATHY KAT IS DOING....
NOTHING.

AND
QUITE WELL,
TOO, I MIGHT
ADD

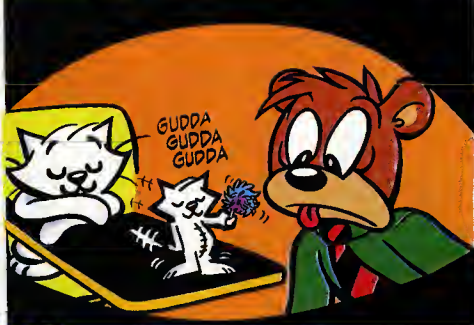
PERHAPS MR. KAT WOULD CARE
TO SHARE WITH US WHAT HE
SHOULD BE DOING—

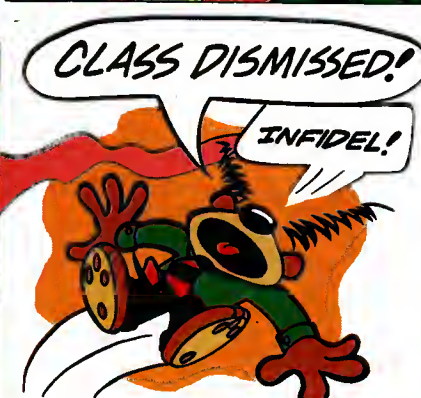
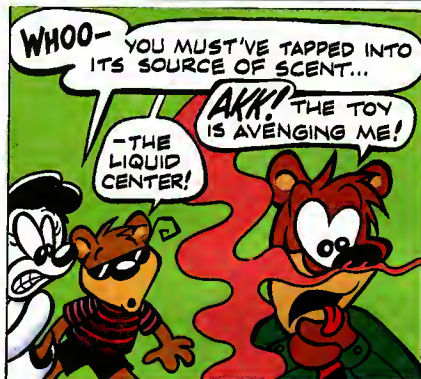
I'M
NOT
STUPID.

YES — WHY DON'T WE
ALL LISTEN TO MR. APATHY
KAT AS TO WHY HE HAS FOUND
DOING ***NOTHING*** SUPERIOR
TO THE
AGREED-
UPON
ASSIGNMENT!



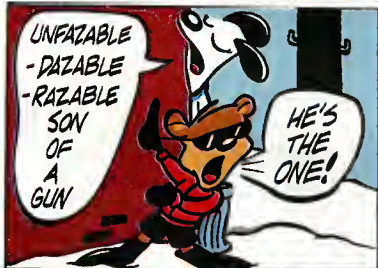














ON SALE NOW!

AMELIA RULES!

VOLUME 4



ON SALE THIS DECEMBER



Renaissance Press presents
This June, a comic book event not to be missed:
AMELIA RULES! #18
"The Things I Cannot Change"

When Amelia and her friends find out that 'Ninja Joan' isn't moving away, they're all thrilled...but why doesn't Joan seem happy?

Then, when Kyle invites Amelia to a 6th-grade dance, they find out the truth... Joan's father is being sent on a dangerous deployment with his job as a Captain in the United States Army.

Suddenly the young friends need to help Joan through a very difficult time, knowing she won't see her father for a year... and that's the best case scenario.

We caught up with Amelia creator Jimmy Gownley to discuss this extraordinary issue.



Q: Where did you get the idea to cover this subject?

JG: I've been thinking of addressing the issue of war since I made some oblique references to it back in issue #4, but for various reasons, I always shied away from it, probably because it was such a big and complex subject. Finally, I narrowed it down to a very specific thought: In a time of war thousands of kids make sacrifices, and those sacrifices should be honored. Their voices should be heard. Once I had that, I thought of the title "The Things I Cannot Change," the story then came easily.

Q: There don't seem to be many fictional stories covering this issue of how children are affected by parents being sent off to war. Why do you think this hasn't been covered very much in modern children's fiction?

JG: Probably because it's very difficult to do, and you are bound to draw criticism, even if you have the best of intentions. Plus, I think a lot of people working in kids' entertainment forget that kids sometimes have to deal with very adult concerns. It's a very difficult tightrope to walk sometimes, but it seems to be my forte.

Q: What has been the toughest thing about writing this story?

JG: Keeping it to 32 pages. You could easily do an entire series on this topic. As a matter of fact, I suspect this storyline will bleed over into the ongoing Amelia stories for quite some time.

Q: What has been your most rewarding experience doing this issue?

JG: Working with Major Steve Murphy and his son Taegen as guest editors. Steve is an Iraq War veteran, and his 10 year old son Taegen has gone through the exact same situation depicted in the story. Knowing that they're working with me to make this book as authentic as possible makes me very excited. I'm honored that they're helping me on this.

Q: What are your hopes regarding the impact of this story?

JG: I have two hopes for this issue. First, I hope it rings true to kids who have, or have had, a parent sent to war. I hope they feel that, in the character of Joan, they have been given a voice. And secondly, I hope adults who read it become more fully aware of the sacrifices some kids have made. Some have given up a parent for a year, some for two, and some forever. Sacrifices like that deserve to be honored.

Amelia Rules! has been nominated for 3 Eisner and 2 Harvey awards.

*

It was the first graphic novel ever made a Children's Book of the Month Club selection.

*

Amelia Rules! Volume 3: SUPERHEROES recently won the first Cybil Award for Best Graphic Novel for Ages 12 and Under.

*

The issue contains a lesson plan for educators and counselors.

*

Original artwork from the issue will be auctioned off to benefit veterans' charities.

**On Sale
This June**





THIS JUNE...

AN AMELIA-EYED
LOOK AT WAR...

AND THE
SACRIFICES SOME
CHILDREN
MUST MAKE.



AMELIA
RULES!

NUMBER 18

"The Things I Cannot Change"



**Have you seen the Amelia Rules!
30-second commercial yet?**

Visit www.ameliarules.com

GET THE WHOLE STORY

AMELIA RULES!

"Side-Splittingly Hilarious"

-Library Journal

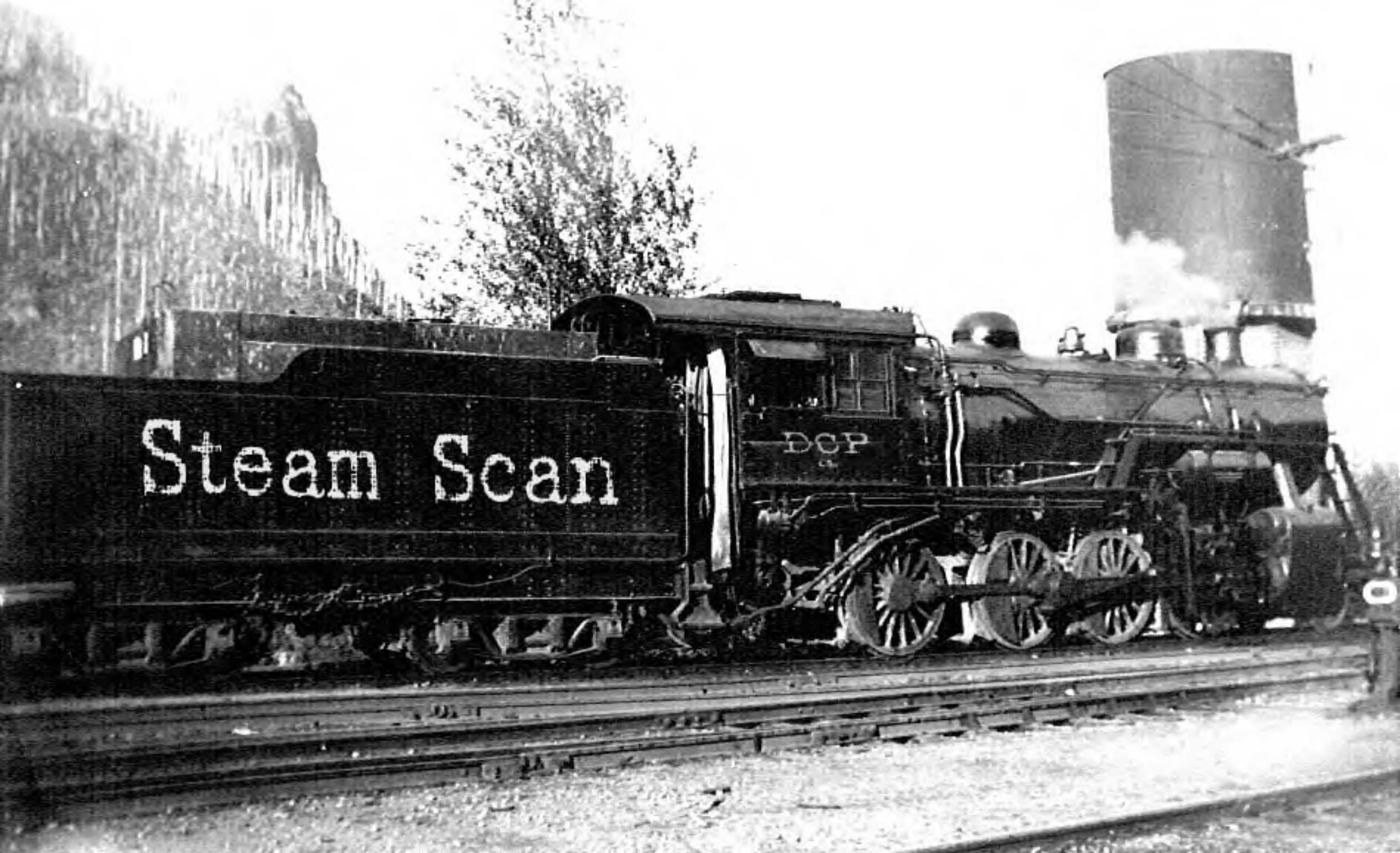
Vol.1 The Whole World's Crazy

Vol.2 What Makes You Happy

Vol.3 Superheroes



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